Fort Rosecrans (Naval Submarine Base)
Point Loma
San Diego
San Diego County
California

HABS No. CA-2255

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Western Region
Department of Interior
San Francisco, California 94102

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

FORT ROSECRANS (Naval Submarine Base) HABS No. CA-2255

Location: Point Loma, San Diego
San Diego County, California

U.S.G.S. Point Loma Quadrangle (7.5")
Universal Transverse Mercator coordinates:
11.477180.3616300

Present Owner: United States Covernment

Present Occupant: U.S. Navy

Present Use: Naval Submarine Base

PROJECT INFORMATION

The Department of the Navy proposes to construct a permanent Single Enlisted Quarters (BEQ) facility at the U.S. Naval Submarine Base in San Diego, California. Under requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended), Executive Order 11593, and Regulations 36 CFR 60 and 36 CFR 800, the Navy was required to address the impacts of this project on the known historic and prehistoric resources within and adjacent to the project area.

A finding (Schilz et al. 1987) that the construction of the BEQ would have a direct adverse effect (36 CFR 800 13b) on the mining Casemate (Building 167) and on archaeological site SDi-48 resulted in the completion of the documentation of the Mining Casemate through an Historic American Buildings Survey (Hathaway et al. 1987) and the completion of an archaeological data recovery program at SDi-48 (Gallegos and Kyle 1988). Both of these programs were designed and carried out as a means of mitigating the adverse effects of the construction of the BEQ on these cultural resource sites.

Findings of indirect adverse effects resulting from the construction of the BEQ and associated parking garage, on these four historic buildings, were also made by Schilz et al. (1987). The BEQ as designed will not destroy or alter these historical buildings but construction will alter the visual character in the project vicinity (36 CFR 8003B, Criterion 2). The view from Rosecrans Street towards the area of the proposed BEQ construction site offers an unobstructed view of an undeveloped hillside and four historic structures (Buildings 137, 138, 139, and 158). Following construction these structures will not be visible to pedestrian or vehicular travelers on Rosecrans Street. Views of these buildings will be limited to viewers situated on Sylvester Road, the road immediately west of Rosecrans Street. After construction of the BEQ Rosecrans Street will be framed by tall, modern structures which will change the historical period character of the current landscape. Also, the view from Sylvester Road looking east, currently a rather expansive view of San Diego Bay and the area of South Bay, will be blocked by the BEQ building and parking structure. Finally, the placement of architecturally modern structures within 100 feet of the historic Fort Rosecrans Post Buildings will be visually incompatible with these historic structures. The architectural style, scale, and detailing of the proposed buildings are not conducive to the prevailing visual context and as such the visual context of the existing structures will be adversely affected by the construction of the BEQ building and associated parking structure (36 CFR 800 3B, Criterion 3) (Schilz et al. 1987).

As a means of mitigating these indirect adverse impacts, a program of photographic documentation for historic buildings 137, 138, 139, 158, and 167 in their current setting prior to project implementation were completed.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Five historic buildings, 137, 138, 139, 158, and 167 are adjacent to or within the proposed BEQ project. Buildings 137, 138, and 139 are immediately west of the proposed BEQ project site. Building 158 is roughly southwest of the project and Building 167 is within the project area (Figures 1 and 2). These buildings were constructed between 1903 and 1915 as part of the Fort Rosecrans Post Buildings (Schilz et al. 1987:11). Buildings 137 and 139 served historically as barracks and currently house the administrative functions of the Commander of Submarine Squadron Three and the Commander of Submarine Development Group One, respectively. The three story structures are virtually identical with peaked roofs, attics, brick chimneys, and covered first story verandas and second-story balconies (Schilz et al. 1987:11). The facades consist of horizontally-laid wood siding and are painted a cream color. The buildings are trimmed at the base by a two to four-foot wide band of rectangular stone blocks. All of the window and door fenestrations are trimmed in wood which is painted dark brown. The cornices, cornerboards, columns, and pilasters are also trimmed in dark brown, painted wood. Finishing details include square paneled wood columns on the verandas and turned wood railings on the second story balconies. The street facing facades for both buildings includes a cross axial gable (Schilz et al. 1987:11-12).

Building 138 was built sometime prior to 1915 and historically housed a YMCA Service Club. The building is currently known as Argonaut Hall and houses the Base facilities of National University. This is a two-story building that includes a cross axial gabled entryway on the east or street facing side as well as an attic, covered verandas, and balconies on this same side. The building has a gabled roof and architectural details include: multi-paned windows with vertically divided sashes; turned wood stairway railings; balcony railings with a diamond-and-square motif; exposed beams on the veranda and balcony ceilings; brackets under the eaves of the dormer; and square pillars on the verandas (Schilz et al. 1987:12).

Building 158 currently houses the administrative offices of the Commander of Submarine Group Five. Historically the building was the post exchange. The building is an imposing brick structure of one and one-half stories. The building is roughly T-shaped with a hipped roof, white cornices, and chimneys. The brick is laid in a common bond pattern with an arched radiating brick pattern above all of the main windows, and raised brick patterns on the pilasters at the main entrance and along the lower story-line in the front of the structure. The multi-paned windows have concrete lugsils and there is a concrete keystone which caps the radiating brick pattern above the main doorway. This arched, brick doorway houses twin doors which are topped by a multi-paned fawlight and a transom (Schilz et al. 1987).

The mining Casemate, building 167, which is within the project parcel, was an integral part of the first modern defense system built to protect San Diego Harbor (Schilz et al. 1987:5). The Casemate was built in early 1897 and as originally planned was to be a single 212 by 18 foot room of steel reinforced concrete construction. The poured concrete walls were 10 feet high and 4 feet thick. In order to withstand a direct hit from battleship artillery, the structure was built 15 feet below the ground surface (Schilz et al. 1987;6). Further protection was offered by the placement of 60 feet of soil on the north, south, and east sides. The building was accessed by means of a concrete stairway that led to the surface on the west side of the building (Schilz et al. 1987;7). Three additional rooms were added to the Casemate beginning with an engine room in 1899 followed by the construction of sleeping and battery rooms in 1911. In 1917, a 60 foot tunnel was constructed to connect the basement of the post exchange (Building 158) with the Casemate (Schilz et al. 1987). As a result of a national policy of disarmament which began in 1922, Fort Rosecrans was reduced to caretaker status until the middle 1930s. In 1935, to revitalize coastal defenses, the new armament plan for the Fort did not include submarine mining and as a result the Mining Casemate became an obsolete component of the coastal military defense system (Schilz et al. 1987;10).

PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION

Mr. Ray Shipps, a professional photographer, was contracted through WESTEC Services, Inc. to provide the photographic services necessary for the satisfactory completion of this documentation. Documentation of these historic structures in the visual setting, which would be lost through construction of the BEQ, followed the photographic documentation standards and specifications of the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American

Engineering Record. Mr. Shipps used a 4 by 5 inch Cambo view camera and three lenses, including a 90 mm wide angle, and standard 150 and 210 mm lenses, for all of the photographs. All of these lenses are made by Rodenstock. No filters were used on any of these lenses. The film used was Kodak Tri-X, a fine grain cut film, which has a minimum resolving power of not less than 80 lines/mm for the high contrast range and 32 lines/mm for the low contrast range. All contact prints were made on fiber-base paper and the processing of these prints followed all of the manufacturer's specifications and included the use of fresh chemicals.

All of the photographs were composed to give primary consideration to the architectural features of the historic structures as well as consideration of the visual setting looking from Rosecrans Street to the west. As this documentation was intended as a means of mitigating the adverse affect of the proposed BEQ on viewing these structures from Rosecrans Street, the composition of the photographs was intended to duplicate the views of travelers on Rosecrans Street. Only natural sunlight was used as the photographs were taken on a clear day. The choices of the most effective and aesthetically pleasing views of the structures were made and every effort was made to eliminate extraneous objects from the composition, such as cars and pedestrians.

References for the photos provided in this document are keyed to a location map shown as Figure 1 This figure shows the location, shot number, and orientation of the photographer at the time each selected photograph was taken. A brief description for each selected photograph is provided below with all information required by the Historic American Buildings Survey permanently transcribed on labels which will accompany each photograph.

Selection of the eight photographs provided was based on a number of subjective criteria. First and foremost, consideration was given to those photographs that present the historic buildings from the viewers perspective on Rosecrans Street, as this is the view that will be lost by the construction of the BEQ. Secondarily, documentation of the architectural features and the overall setting of the historic structures were considered, as the buildings (except for Building 167 which has been separately documented) (Hathaway 1987)) are not to be demolished. Finally, selection considerations were made as to lighting, sharpness of focus, the presence of extraneous vehicles and people, and general composition.

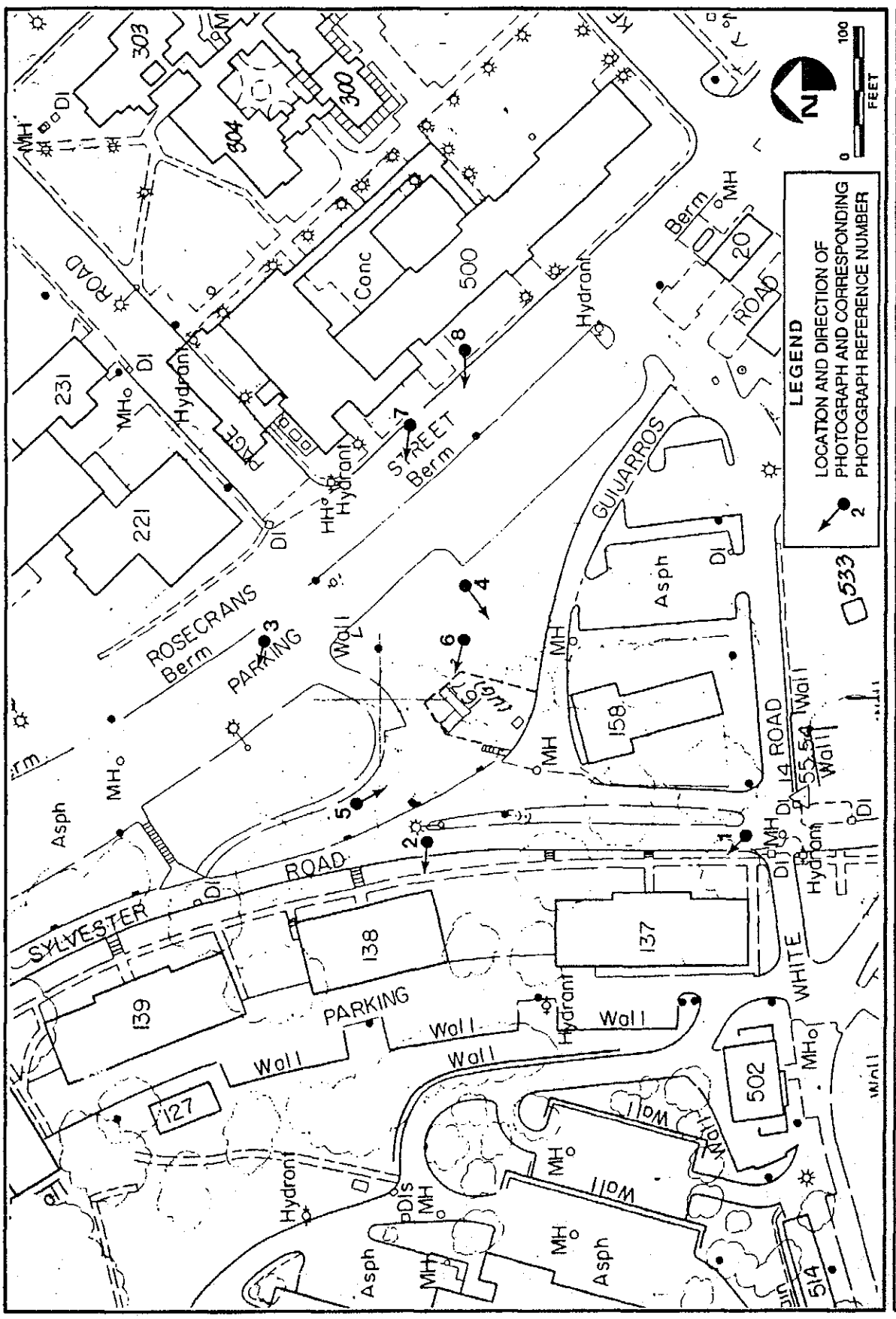

FIGURE 1

Map Showing Photographic Locations for Buildings 137, 138, 139, 158 and 167

WESTEC Services, Inc.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Hathaway, Roger, Steven Van Wormer, Allan Schilz

1987 Historic American Buildings Survey Mining Casemate (Building 167) HABS No. CA-2255. Report prepared for the Department of the Navy, Western Division Naval Facilities Engineering Command, San Bruno, California.